AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for processing speech, comprising:

receiving a speech input of a speaker;

generating speech parameters from said speech input;

determining parameters describing an absolute loudness of said speech input, the absolute loudness being a loudness of the speech at a location of a source of the speech; and

evaluating at least one of said speech input and said speech parameters using said parameters describing the absolute loudness to identify the speaker.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of evaluation comprises a step of emotion recognition.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein a microphone array comprising a plurality of microphones is used for determining said parameters describing the absolute loudness.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of a location and distance of the speaker is determined.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the absolute loudness is determined using algorithms for at least one of auditory and binaural processing.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein

said absolute loudness is computed by normalizing a measured loudness, or energy by said distance.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein

said distance is determined using the time delay of the speech input between said plurality of microphones.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A speech processing system, which is configured to:

receive a speech input of a speaker,

generate speech parameters from said speech input,

determine parameters describing an absolute loudness of said speech input, the absolute loudness being a loudness of the speech at a location of a source of the speech, and

evaluate at least one of said speech input and said speech parameters using said parameters describing the absolute loudness to identify the speaker.

Claims 10-11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program configured to cause a processor-based device to execute a method of:

receiving a speech input of a speaker,

generating speech parameters from said speech input,

determining parameters describing an absolute loudness of said speech input, the absolute loudness being a loudness of a speech at a location of a source of the speech, and

evaluating at least one of said speech input and said speech parameters using said parameters describing the absolute loudness to identify the speaker.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method for processing speech, comprising:

receiving a speech signal of a speaker;

generating speech parameters from said speech signal;

determining a distance of the speaker based on a time delay of a respective arrival of said speech signal at two or more microphones;

normalizing a measured loudness or energy by said distance;

calculating an absolute loudness being a loudness of a speech that generated the speech signal at a location of a source of the speech; and

evaluating at least one of said speech signal and said speech parameters using the normalized loudness or energy to identify the speaker.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A system for emotion recognition and/or speaker identification, comprising:

at least two microphones configured to receive a speech signal;

a data processor configured to generate speech parameters from said speech signal, to determine a distance of the speaker based on a time delay of a respective arrival of said speech signal at said microphone, to normalize a measured loudness or energy by said distance, to calculate an absolute loudness being a loudness of a speech that generated the speech signal at a location of a source of the speech; and

further configured to evaluate at least one of said speech signal and said speech parameters using the normalized loudness or energy to identify the speaker.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method for processing speech comprising the steps of:

receiving a speech signal of a speaker;

calculating an absolute loudness being a loudness of a speech that is generated by the speaker at a location of a source of the speech;

determining features from the speech signal, wherein the features are at least partly based on the absolute loudness; and

determining an ~~emotion and/or~~ an identity of the speaker based on the features.